



EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 3-23-09  
SB 189

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Helena Food Share (HFS) is a private nonprofit. We provide food to the local community and help fellow pantries and families in a three county area (Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson). We serve families and individuals with low incomes, households who have recently lost employment or had their hours of employment reduced, disabled individuals, and elderly individuals. In short, we serve those who are in need of food.

2008 was a "perfect storm" of economic challenges for many, including food banks and pantries. Due to increases in food cost and increases in the number of requests for service in almost every program we offer, the past 12 months have challenged all food banks and pantries statewide. We are very grateful to have received help from the Attorney General's office through the Consumer Protection settlement disbursement.

HFS recently benefited from a Consumer Protection settlement in two ways; We received a grant that allowed us to purchase an 8 ft produce cooler (\$10,200 to us)

We received 1 year insurance coverage for a new refrigerated truck re received as part of a statewide grant. A total of 7 Food banks and pantries received this benefit (\$1,150 to us)

#### PRODUCE COOLER

The HFS Board of Directors recognized the need to increase fresh food distributed to those we serve in the 2008 Strategic Plan. Staff had worked to find funding to purchase a produce cooler adequate to the needs of our clients. Our local United Way had offered some funding, but could not fully fund our request. The grant from Consumer Protection allowed us to improve safe access to nutritious fresh food to the low income, disabled, and elderly population we serve.

#### Helena Food Share envisions a Hunger Free Community

Helena Food Share serves our neighbors in need by providing food in a respectful and dignified way and by working with others to eliminate hunger in the greater Helena Area.

Helena Food Share raised more funding in the current fiscal year than we thought possible. However, much of the funding was for food purchases and program operation. Finding funding that helps us purchase equipment vital to running our programs - such as a produce cooler - is much more difficult to find.

#### INSURANCE PAYMENT

The Missoula Food Bank requested our congressional delegation to help fund 7 refrigerated trucks for Montana food banks and pantries. Our federal representatives were very helpful and, with help from the Phyllis and Dennis Washington Foundation, the trucks could be purchased. The grant process took over 2 years, but it was well worth it!

A truck valued at \$46,737 requires substantial insurance coverage. Each of the agencies receiving the trucks appreciated having a year of coverage for these vehicles.

The insurance coverage is a wonderful help since other expenses need to be covered in order to take full advantage of the truck, e.g., outfitting the interior of the truck body to safely transport food and ensuring that the truck can be off-loaded onto a loading dock of appropriate height. All of these expenses arrive at a time when the cost of food and number of requests are higher than ever. We are very grateful for the specific help received from the Attorney General's office.

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